

## PLANTING METHODS FOR THE COLORADO PLATEAU AND OTHER ARID AREAS

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The Colorado Plateau region is primarily located in the desert and semi-desert ecological zones and thus receives less than 13 inches of annual precipitation, which makes it extremely challenging to establish vegetation plantings using traditional methods. Established in 1934, the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center and its partners have been developing effective planting strategies for the arid southwest. The planting strategies include some type of a moisture enhancement treatment which is necessary for successful establishment in an arid environment. Treatments include mulches, absorbents, deep-root systems, the deep planting of longstems and pole cuttings into shallow groundwater, proper timing, and the use of local ecotypes. Case studies will be presented which will include photos of sites with before and after treatments.